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NEWS.

Dr. Enrico Pantanelli has been appointed docent in botany at Rome.

ÉMILE BOUDIER, the eminent mycologist, has been elected director of the Association internationale de géographie botanique for the year 1906.

Professor Dr. A. Richter has been appointed director of the botanic garden of the University of Kolosvár, the post recently vacated by the death of Professor V. Borbás.

A PORTRAIT of Mr. Francis Darwin was lately presented to the botanical department of the University of Cambridge, where he was for many years an active investigator and instructor.

Professor Hugo De Vries will sail for New York about April 1, to deliver an address at the bicentennial anniversary exercises in honor of Benjamin Franklin to be held in Philadelphia April 17–20, under the auspices of the American Philosophical Society. He expects to remain in this country two or three months.

Dr. D. T. MacDougal has resigned his position as assistant director of the New York Botanical Garden and has been appointed director of botanical research of the Carnegie Institute. Dr. B. E. Livingston has resigned his post as physiologist in the Bureau of Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Professor Francis E. Lioyd his chair in the Teachers College of Columbia University, to accept appointments as investigators on the staff of the Desert Botanical Laboratory, with Drs. Cannon and Spalding.

AFTER thirty years' service Sir W. THISELTON-DYER retired on December 15 from the directorship of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and was succeeded by Lieutentant-Colonel D. Prain, formerly director of the Botanical Survey of India, and superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta. Mr. Dyer will remain at Kew till March 31 next, and till that date will continue to act as botanical adviser to the secretary of state for the colonies and as technical adviser in botany to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, as well as to take charge of India Office work.

From the Journal of the New York Botanical Garden we learn that Mr. R. S. WILLIAMS has returned from two years' explorations of the Luzon, Jolo, and Mindinao, three of the Philippine Islands, bringing large and important collections of herbarium and museum material, estimated at ten to twelve thousand specimens, in spite of the loss of about three months' collections by fire.

Dr. J. N. Rose with an assistant, Mr. Painter, spent the summer in the arid districts of central and southern Mexico, collecting cacti, of which they

secured several hundred. Special arrangements are being made to study this family thoroughly, both in living and preserved material.

Some giant bamboos in the palm-house in the past season grew 65 feet (20^m) in ninety-five days, an average of about 21^{cm} per day.

From advance sheets of the seventeenth annual report of the Missouri Botanical Garden, we learn what extraordinary burdens the Shaw bequest has been carrying these sixteen years in the way of taxes, general and special, and real estate and street improvements. This has unhappily delayed the design of Director Trelease for development of the Garden as a research center, making impossible the prompt execution of the plan to maintain a staff of specialists and furnish them facilities for work. If the city and state were as just as Mr. Shaw was generous they would relieve the Garden of taxes at least, since it exists solely for the public good. Notwithstanding these unexampled inroads upon its income the institution has not stood still; the garden has not only been maintained but greatly improved; a fine library and herbarium has been accumulated, and notable researches have been published annually. The grounds now embrace 65 acres, the plant houses cover 30,000 square feet, the cultivated plants number 16,000 species, noteworthy groups being the cacti (678 sp.), bromeliads (204 sp.), and orchids (942 sp.). The library is now undoubtedly the best botanical library in the United States, and the herbarium contains over half a million specimens. We congratulate the Director and Trustees on the wise administration of their trust in the face of serious difficulties and discouragements.

THE American Mycological Society held its third annual meeting in connection with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at New Orleans, January 1, 1906. In the absence of the president, Charles H. Peck, the vice-president, F. S. EARLE, presided. The new constitution recommended by the joint committee of the Botanical Society of America, the Society for Plant Morphology and Physiology, and the American Mycological Society, as a basis for the union of the three societies, was adopted and the present officers continued as a committee with power to cooperate in the completion of the details of reorganization. The following papers were read: J. C. ARTHUR, Some reasons for desiring a better classification of the Uredinales; S. M. TRACY, Uredineae of the Gulf States; W. G. FARLOW, Some peculiar fungi new to America; F. S. Earle, North American gill fungi; Bruce Fink (by title), Lichens and recent conceptions of species; E. M. Freeman, The affinities of the fungus of Lolium temulentum; C. L. Shear, Peridermium cerebrum Peck, and Cronartium Quercuum (Berkeley); C. L. SHEAR, Romularia: An illustration of the present practice in mycological nomenclature; P H. Rolfs, Notes on cultures of Collelotrichum and Gloeosporium; P. Spaulding, The occurrence of Fusoma parasiticum Tubeuf in this country; P. H. Rolfs, Notes on Pachyma cocos; P. H. Rolfs, Penicillium glaucum on pineapple fruit.—C. L. Shear.